

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 14 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed, as well as at paragraph 0101 and 0102 of the specification. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

**CLAIM OBJECTIONS:**

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraphs 5-7, claim 5 was objected to.

Claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, claim 5 is now submitted to be in allowable form.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

In the Office Action mailed June 13, 2007, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (US Patent 7,085,629) in view of Tada. (U.S. Patent 7,080,099). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 have been amended.

In contrast to Gotou and Tada, independent claim 1 of the present application recites, "an additional information selection unit accepting, in a case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received" and "an adding unit adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding unit adding the additional information of which accepted the selection by the additional information selection unit, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information".

Support for the foregoing recitations may be found at paragraph 0101 and 0102 of the specification.

Amended independent claims 6, 10 and 14 recite similar features of the present application as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 of the present application are patentable under 35U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou in view of Tada. Since 2-3, 5, 7-8, and 11-12 depend from amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10, respectively, claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, and 11-12 are patentable for at least the reasons amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are patentable.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou in view of Tada, and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

In contrast to Gotou, Tada and Rast, amended independent claim 1 of the present application recites, in part: "an additional information selection unit accepting, in a case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received" and "an adding unit adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding unit adding the additional information of which accepted the selection by the additional information selection unit, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information."

Amended independent claims 6, 10 and 14 recite similar features of the present application as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 of the present application are patentable under 35U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou in view of Tada, further in view of Rast. Since 3, 5, 7-8, and 11-12 depend from amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10, respectively, claims 3, 5, 7-8, and 11-12 are patentable.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the foregoing rejections of pending claims and allowance of claims is respectfully requested.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

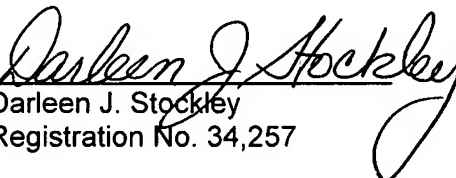
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: September 13, 2007 By:   
Darleen J. Stockley  
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501